(c) As in (a) above.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: I am satisfied with the answer to the question given by the hon. Minister. Hoping the hon. Minister will keep his word I like to put another question.

Are there any more schemes of this kind in the various districts of West Bengal and, if so, please give me details.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Sir, there is a continuous scheme to modernise the Telecommunication System in the country. We have the plan chalked out for the Eighth Five Year Plan and we will find out whether we can do it with the Electronic Exchange or whatever modern equipment is necessary at that place.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Now I put my next question. It is found that ghost calls—ISD and STD are recorded in many telephone numbers. I have got my record in my pocket. Is there any scheme chalked out by the Government to curb this problem? Here, I would like to state that 20,000—30,000 such calls have been recorded in telephone number 3/82514, Delhi during two-three/ months. It has already been reported to the office. It is a funny thing because during this period of two/three months the receiver was kept under lock and key. I would, therefore, request the Minister to explain.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Some such problems have been projected in various forums. Because of this problem, I am told that some excess billing is also done. We are reviewing all these things to find out whether we can find a solution to this problem whereby it could be traced immediately. We have given this task to our technicians and technical people. We are looking into this matter.

Mining Lease for Soap Stones and Bauxite

*250. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the companies which are holding mining lease for soap stones and bauxite in different parts of the country; and

(b) whether the Government propose to review the policy of granting mining lease in the near future?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Mining leases are granted to individuals, partnership firms as well as Companies. As on 1-1-90 the total number of mining lease holders in the country for soap stone was 648 and for bauxite was 381.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part (b) of the question, the hon. Minister has stated—"No". May be he is not aware that mines and mineral deposits exist in forests. The contractors cut down the forests for mining purposes. With the result heavy damage is done to environment and forests in that area. It also effects the winds and the monsoon. He has said that no change will be brought about in the policy. May be he is not aware of the fact that the area where soap stone deposits exist.....

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has said "No" straightway. It should have been in his knowledge that the contractors leave the dug up earth with the result water is filled in the fields when it rains. It is very bad from many angles. Therefore, with a view to protecting the environment and forests, whether any change will be brought about in the

policy and any new scheme will be implemented to do away with this type of mining by contractors, no matter if Government agencies are involved in it?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, mining leases are granted in accordance with the provisions of the Mining Act. There is no such shortcoming in it nor is there any need to bring about changes in it. So far as the suggestions and the complaint of the hon. Member is concerned, if he can give some specific information about the irregularities that are taking place in mining in some particular area, I can get it investigated and action can be taken.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bauxite deposits are found in small area in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. He may get it verified by the mining departments of these three states. My second question is whether the hon. Minister is aware that there is illegal mining of Bauxite and soap stone and these minerals are being clandestinely sold. Has the hon. Minister some information in this regard and if so, whether he would like to have an inquiry conducted in this regard?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, we have no such complaint. But as I have said, if the hon. Member has any information and if he gives some specific information, it can be certainly investigated and action can also be taken.

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Illegal mining is a problem not only in the forest areas but also almost everywhere. In Trivandrum, at Arevikara which is ten kilometres away from Trivandrum, there is often complaint of illegal mining and precious stones have been taken away from there. May I know from the hon. Minister whether a proper study will be conducted at least in Trivandrum to know about these deposits as also steps taken for stopping this illegal mining.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, these stones come under minor mining and this is a State subject. But so far as the suggestion by the hon. Member that every state has a different set of rules and there is no uniformity in them is concerned, I would like to assure him that the Government is considering the issue and efforts are being made to bring about some changes in this Act and to take necessary action in this regard.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Sir, I would like to know the maximum and minimum area for which mining leases are granted. Is it not a fact that some leases are granted for an area covering miles while some are granted to the poor in square feet area. I would like to know whether a fixed limit for the mining leases will be prescribed by changing the rules, so that uniform mining leases can be granted.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, so far as mining is concerned, the leases for major mines are granted by the Government of India and the leases for minor mines are granted by the State Government. The State Government grants these leases in accordance with its own rules....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Forest Act of the Central Government covers such forests of the Forest Department where plantation is not possible because of existence of stone quarries there. Clandestine mining of stone and its sale are going on there. This question does not relate to the State Govment but it relates to the Central Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Act will be amended to provide that mining lease will be granted for such forest areas of the Forest Department where plantation is not possible?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Reply to this question has already been given.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit for the sake of information that in 1988 the Central Government had sent a Committee to Adhora in Rohtas district of Bihar which is surrounded by the Camoor hill range to find out whether there were any indications of existence of adequate coal and bauxite deposits there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the findings of the fact finding committee?

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no information in this regard, but on the basis of the information given by the hon. Member, I will get it investigated and necessary action wil be taken.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister. Way back in 1970, the Geological Survey of India and the AP Mining Corporation have identified the existence of bauxite deposits in Andhra Pradesh which amounts to 800 million tonnes.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to be brief, if you want a reply.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: The Indo-Soviet Joint Commission has also identified it. They wanted to commission a project there. But due to unknown reasons it is being delayed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reason for the delay and also whether they are making any decision to open this project to the private sector.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no information about it but I will inform the hon. Member after collecting the information.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Dams and Irrigation Projects

*251. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for construction of dams and irrigation projects in various states pending with the Union Government;

(b) whether some of those proposals pertain to Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda and Hamirpur districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Status of Projects with the Centre

Stage of investment clearance	*No. of New Projects*		
	Major and multi-purpose	*Medium*	*Total*
1	2	3	4
1. Techno-economic appraisal completed and found acceptable by the Advisory Committee subject to compliance of the observations by the State Governments.	44	39	83